

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dehydrating a biological tissue for producing preserved transplants, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) dehydrating the tissue to a water content in ~~the range~~ a range of 10 weight percent to 25 weight percent by subjecting the tissue to an extraction with an organic solvent which can be mixed with water; and
  - (b) dehydrating the tissue further by freeze drying.
2. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein, said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of: methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone and mixtures thereof.
3. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the tissue is dehydrated in step (a) at a temperature from 0°C to 70°C.
4. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of subjecting the tissue to a vacuum treatment before step (b).
5. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of subjecting the tissue to a vacuum treatment before step (a) and after step (a).

6. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the tissue is subjected to a treatment with ultrasound, with a vibrator or with a shaker during the extraction with the organic solvent in step (a).

7. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein an overpressure, an alternating pressure or an underpressure is applied during the extraction with the organic solvent in step (a).